SCIENTIFIC AND MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

Rao Bahadur Rajyasevanirata Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: Sir, I move that Government be granted a sum of Rs. 1,100 under Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments. The purpose of this grant is to pay rent for the building hired for holding the office of the Curator for the publication of Oriental Manuscripts and to meet certain contingent charges of his office

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: May I know when the building was hired ?

Rao Bahadur Rajyasevanirata Dr.N. Kunjan Pillai: Sir, I shall explain it presently.

The office of the Curator was being held in a small building for which a rent of Rs. 25 was being paid. In Edavom last year, Government sanctioned some additional hands for the preparation of a descriptive catalogue of the manuscripts in the Curator's office with a view to make the catalogue available to the delegates who attend the forthcoming Oriental Conference in December. This additional staff was sanctioned in Edavom 1112, and the Curator pressed for a bigger building as the building in which his office was being held was too small even for the old staff. It became practically impossible for him to continue to hold his office in the old building. Government considered his request and decided to hire a bigger building.

I know why Mr. Kesavan Nair put a question to me. By the time it was decided to hire a new building the budget had already been prepared and the preliminary edition had gone to the press. It was too late to include provision for the rent for a bigger building in the budget of the current year.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: Was not a demand made for the preparation of the descriptive catalogue while the budget of the current year was considered ?

Rao Bahadur Rajyasevanirata Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: Yes, Sir. But Government thought that it would be possible for the Curator to continue to hold his office in the old building even after the additional hands were entertained. But by experience the Curator found that it would be impossible for him to hold office in a small building. Hence a bigger building had to be hired. The rent for this building is Rs. 80 per mensem. Originally it was the idea to accommodate two offices in this building, the Curator's office in the ground floor and the Economic Development Board in the first floor. Subsequently the Economic Development Board was accommodated in the office of the Land Revenue Commissioner who is the President of the Board. Thus the first floor was available and Dr. Cousins, who is on the University staff, took this portion of the building for his residence. Government are recovering

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from him half the rent, *viz.*, Rs. 40 which is credited to revenue. But the whole rent has to be paid to the owner of the building from the ordinary contingent grant. It is for this purpose that a sum of Rs. 80 is required.

When an additional staff was sanctioned, additional furniture had to be provided and for that purpose a sum of Rs. 240 is required. Again additional expenditure under water, electricity and telephone charges has to be met. The garden attached to the office has also to be maintained and some tools have to be purchased Provision had to be made for two gardeners. All these told, the additional amount required is Rs. 1,100. This is in addition to the amount already provided in the budget, *viz.*, Rs. 1,160. Hence I move for this supplementary grant.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: May I know whether there are no suitable Government buildings at present lying vacant in which this office could be held?

Rao Bahadur Rajyasevanirata Dr. N Kunjan Pillai: No, sir. On the other hand Government require more buildings to meet their requirement.

Mr. Nedumanagd R. Kesavan Nair: May I know whether Government are giving out Government buildings on rent?

Rao Bahadur Rajyasevanirata Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: Government buildings are given on rent as residential quarters to certain officers to whom Government are under an obligation, under covenant, to provide quarters.

Mr. Nedumangad R. Kesavan Nair: May I know whether some of the buildings acquired for the Thampanoor Valley Scheme are not available?

Rao Bahadur Rajyasevanirata Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: I believe all the buildings that could be used for holding offices are being so used. The Sub-Registrar's Office, the District Registrar's Office and certain other offices are housed in some of those buildings. There are some cudjan sheds which cannot be used for holding offices.

Mr. K. R. Elenkath: May I know whether the building that was used to hold the office of the Traffic Superintendent is vacant?

Rao Bahadur Rajyasevanirata Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai: I am not sure. I will enquire into it.

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

Rao Bahadur A. Rengaswami Aiyar: Sir. I move that the report of the Public Accounts Committee and the Audit and Appropriation Accounts for 1111 submitted by the Account Officer be taken into consideration,

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